



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1061

January Session, 2015



AN ACT CONCERNING THE FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY OF STATE PARKS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 14-49 of the general
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

4 (a) For the registration of each passenger motor vehicle, other than
5 an electric motor vehicle, the fee shall be [eighty] eighty-five dollars
6 every two years, provided: (1) Any individual may, as prescribed by
7 section 14-12, as amended by this act, or 14-22, as amended by this act,
8 as applicable, affirmatively elect to not pay the five-dollar portion of
9 such fee that constitutes a charitable donation to the State Parks
10 Sustainability account established pursuant to section 5 of this act, and
11 (2) any individual who is sixty-five years of age or older on or after
12 January 1, 1981, may, at his discretion, renew the registration of such
13 passenger motor vehicle owned by him for either a one-year or two-
14 year period. The fee for one year shall be [forty] forty-five dollars, and
15 the fee for two years shall be [eighty] eighty-five dollars, provided: (A)
16 Any individual may, as prescribed by section 14-12, as amended by
17 this act, or 14-22, as amended by this act, as applicable, affirmatively
18 elect to not pay the five-dollar portion of any such one-year or two-
19 year fee that constitutes a charitable donation to the State Parks

20 Sustainability account established pursuant to section 5 of this act, and
21 (B) the biennial fee for any motor vehicle for which special license
22 plates have been issued under the provisions of section 14-20 shall be
23 eighty dollars. The provisions of this subsection relative to the biennial
24 fee charged for the registration of each antique, rare or special interest
25 motor vehicle for which special license plates have been issued under
26 section 14-20 shall not apply to an antique fire apparatus or transit bus
27 owned by a nonprofit organization and maintained primarily for use
28 in parades, exhibitions or other public events but not for purposes of
29 general transportation.

30 (b) (1) For the registration of each motorcycle, the biennial fee shall
31 be ~~[forty-two]~~ forty-seven dollars, subject to the provisions of
32 subdivision (2) of this subsection and provided any individual may, as
33 prescribed by section 14-12, as amended by this act, or 14-22, as
34 amended by this act, as applicable, affirmatively elect to not pay the
35 five-dollar portion of such fee that constitutes a charitable donation to
36 the State Parks Sustainability account established pursuant to section 5
37 of this act. For the registration of each motorcycle with side car or box
38 attached used for commercial purposes, the biennial fee shall be ~~[sixty~~
39 ~~dollars]~~ sixty-five dollars provided any individual may, as prescribed
40 by section 14-12, as amended by this act, or 14-22, as amended by this
41 act, as applicable, affirmatively elect to not pay the five-dollar portion
42 of such fee that constitutes a charitable donation to the State Parks
43 Sustainability account established pursuant to section 5 of this act. The
44 commissioner may register a motorcycle with a side car under one
45 registration which shall cover the use of such motorcycle with or
46 without such side car. (2) Four dollars of the total fee with respect to
47 the registration of each motorcycle shall, when entered upon the
48 records of the Special Transportation Fund, be deemed to be
49 appropriated to the Department of Transportation for purposes of
50 continuing the program of motorcycle rider education formerly
51 funded under the federal Highway Safety Act of 1978, 23 USC 402.

52 Sec. 2. Section 14-49 of the general statutes is amended by adding

53 subsection (bb) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

54 (NEW) (bb) Five dollars of any registration fee collected by the
55 commissioner pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, as
56 amended by this act, shall constitute a charitable donation to the State
57 Parks Sustainability account, as established in section 5 of this act and
58 shall be deposited by the commissioner in such account unless such
59 registrant affirmatively elected to not pay such five-dollar charitable
60 donation, in accordance with section 14-12, as amended by this act, or
61 14-22, as amended by this act, in which case five dollars of such
62 registration fee shall not be deposited in such account.

63 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 14-12 of the general statutes is
64 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
65 *1, 2015*):

66 (b) To obtain a motor vehicle registration, except as provided in
67 subsection (c) of this section, the owner shall file in the office of the
68 commissioner an application signed by him and containing such
69 information and proof of ownership as the commissioner may require.
70 The application shall be made on blanks furnished by the
71 commissioner. The blanks shall be in such form and contain such
72 provisions and information as the commissioner may determine,
73 provided any such blank used to register a passenger motor vehicle or
74 a motorcycle shall contain information informing the owner that five
75 dollars of the applicable registration fee for such passenger motor
76 vehicle or motorcycle constitutes a charitable donation to the State
77 Parks Sustainability account and such blank contains a check box that
78 allows such owner to affirmatively elect to not pay such five-dollar
79 charitable donation.

80 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 14-22 of the general statutes is
81 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
82 *1, 2015*):

83 (a) A motor vehicle registration issued pursuant to this chapter shall

84 expire in accordance with schedules established by the commissioner.
85 If the expiration date of the registration of the motor vehicle, except the
86 registration of a motor vehicle used to transport passengers for hire,
87 falls on any day when offices of the commissioner are closed for
88 business, the registration shall be deemed valid for the operation of the
89 motor vehicle until midnight of the next day on which offices of the
90 commissioner are open for business. The commissioner shall prescribe
91 the date and manner of renewing registrations. Not less than forty-five
92 days prior to the expiration of any valid registration, the department
93 shall send or transmit, in such manner as the commissioner
94 determines, an application for renewal to the registrant. In the case of a
95 motor vehicle registered to a leasing company licensed pursuant to
96 section 14-15, the department may send or transmit, in such manner as
97 the commissioner determines, an application for renewal of a leased
98 vehicle to the lessee of such vehicle. Any such application used to
99 register a passenger motor vehicle or a motorcycle shall contain: (1)
100 Information informing the owner that five dollars of the applicable
101 registration fee for such passenger motor vehicle or motorcycle
102 constitutes a charitable donation to the State Parks Sustainability
103 account, and (2) a check box that allows such owner to affirmatively
104 elect to not pay such five-dollar charitable donation. The commissioner
105 shall not be required to send or transmit a registrant's or lessee's
106 application by mail if the United States Postal Service has determined
107 that mail is undeliverable to such person at the address for such person
108 that is in the records of the department. Except for the processing of
109 such application at an official emissions inspection station as provided
110 in subsection (b) of this section or by telephone as provided in
111 subsection (c) of this section, the commissioner may require that the
112 application be returned electronically or by mail in order to be
113 processed and approved, with only such exceptions, on a hardship
114 basis, as shall be established by the commissioner in regulations
115 adopted pursuant to chapter 54.

116 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) There is established a State
117 Parks Sustainability account which shall be a separate, nonlapsing

118 account within the General Fund. Any moneys collected for donations
119 to the State Parks Sustainability account pursuant to subsections (a)
120 and (b) of section 14-49 of the general statutes, as amended by this act,
121 subsection (b) of section 14-12 of the general statutes, as amended by
122 this act, and section 9 of this act, shall be deposited by the
123 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and the Commissioner of Energy and
124 Environmental Protection, respectively, into such account. The account
125 may also include moneys received from public and private sources,
126 including the federal government. All moneys deposited in the
127 account shall be used by the Department of Energy and Environmental
128 Protection or persons acting under a contract with such department, as
129 follows: (1) To reimburse the Department of Motor Vehicles for
130 incurred costs to include notice on applications for motor vehicle
131 registrations and renewal motor vehicle registrations of the option to
132 not pay the five-dollar charitable donation to such account and to
133 collect such donations from applicants, provided the amount shall not
134 exceed one hundred thousand dollars for each fiscal year and such
135 reimbursement shall occur not later than July first of each year; and (2)
136 to provide for the maintenance, operation and improvement of state
137 parks that are under the custody, care or control of the Commissioner
138 of Energy and Environmental Protection.

139 (b) The State Parks Sustainability account shall be a perpetual fund,
140 the resources of which shall be used solely for the purposes of
141 subsection (a) of this section. All sources of moneys, funds and receipts
142 of the state required to be credited, deposited or transferred to said
143 fund by state law on or after the effective date of this section shall
144 continue to be credited, deposited or transferred to said fund. No law
145 shall be enacted authorizing the resources of said fund to be expended
146 other than for the purposes of subsection (a) of this section.

147 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than December 1,
148 2015, and annually thereafter, any person who has a contractual
149 agreement with the Department of Rehabilitation Services for the
150 operation in any state park of any food service facility, vending

151 machine or stand for the vending of goods shall report to the
152 Department of Rehabilitation Services the amount of revenue that such
153 person generated during the calendar year as a result of such contract.
154 Not later than January 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the
155 Department of Rehabilitation Services shall compile any reports
156 received pursuant to this subsection and transmit such reports to the
157 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

158 (b) On or before January 30, 2016, and each year thereafter, the
159 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall compile
160 the following information: (1) The number of food service facilities,
161 vending machines and stands for the vending of goods that are located
162 in the state parks and the location of the respective parks that have
163 such facilities, machines or stands, (2) the amount of revenues
164 generated from such food service facilities, vending machines and
165 stands for the vending of goods, as reported to the commissioner by
166 the Department of Rehabilitation Services pursuant to subsection (a) of
167 this section, (3) the contractual agreement or provision of law that
168 provides for the payment of any portion of such revenues to the state
169 or that prohibits or limits the payment of such revenues to the state, (4)
170 the amount of such revenues paid to the state in the subject calendar
171 year, and (5) the manner in which such revenues were used by the
172 state, if identifiable by the commissioner.

173 Sec. 7. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 31, 2015, the
174 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall develop
175 a request for information concerning the operation of concessions,
176 provision of services and offering of recreational amenities at state
177 parks. The purpose of such request for information shall be to seek
178 informational documentation for the operation of such concessions,
179 provision of such services and offering of recreational amenities. Not
180 later than August 15, 2015, such request for information shall be
181 forwarded by the commissioner to the Department of Administrative
182 Services for posting on the State Contracting Portal. Concomitantly,
183 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall direct

184 a copy of such request for information to any private vendor known by
185 the commissioner to provide such operation, provision or offering. Not
186 later than November 1, 2015, the commissioner shall forward, to the
187 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
188 of matters relating to the environment, a copy of any informational
189 documentation received by the commissioner in response to such
190 request for information and a written assessment and evaluation of
191 such informational documentation, including, but not limited to, any
192 recommendation for the offering at state parks of concessions, services
193 and recreational amenities that are not offered at such state parks as of
194 the effective date of this section.

195 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Not later than July 31, 2015, the
196 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall establish
197 the amount of rent paid by any resident or nonresident of this state for
198 the use of state park property for any special event of limited duration,
199 including, but not limited to, weddings and receptions, in an amount
200 that is based on the number of persons attending such special event
201 provided such amount is not less than one hundred thirty-five per cent
202 of the amount charged for such rent by the commissioner as of July 1,
203 2015. The amount of any rent charged pursuant to this section shall
204 reflect a higher fee for any event that will have a greater number of
205 people in attendance.

206 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Not later than July 31, 2015, the
207 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall amend
208 the Adopt A Park program to additionally provide for the recognition
209 of participants who elect to financially sponsor such park, through
210 contribution of a charitable donation, by erecting a placard at such
211 park that bears the name of any such sponsoring individual,
212 individuals, organization or corporation and the nature of such
213 financial sponsorship. The commissioner may establish multiple tiers
214 for such financial sponsorship provided no level of charitable donation
215 for such financial sponsorship shall be less than two thousand five
216 hundred dollars. Any funds collected by the commissioner pursuant to

217 this section shall be deposited by the commissioner in the State Parks
 218 Sustainability account established pursuant to section 5 of this act.

219 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) In addition to any fee collected
 220 pursuant to section 23-26 of the general statutes, the Commissioner of
 221 Energy and Environmental Protection shall provide for the daily
 222 collection of parking fees at any state park located on the shoreline
 223 throughout the month of September, at the applicable weekday or
 224 weekend rate.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	14-49(a) and (b)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	14-49
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	14-12(b)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	14-22(a)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

TRA *Joint Favorable*

APP *Joint Favorable*